

THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY

August 2014 – Week 1

Air Date: July 27 – August 2 (Sunday – Saturday)



TITLE: THE HEAVENS MAKE A SPLASH

AUGUST 1946 AND THE HEAVENS MAKE A SPLASH IN WEST TEXAS.

THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY, BROUGHT TO YOU BY THIS STATION AND THE SAVE TEXAS HISTORY PROGRAM OF THE GENERAL LAND OFFICE.

AUGUST 2, 1946. MARATHON. LUNCHTIME AT THE GAGE RANCH NEAR THE PEÑA BLANCA SPRINGS.

AT ABOUT 1:15, LOCALS HEAR A LOUD SONIC BOOM. TWO RANCHERS EATIN' LUNCH LOOK UP TO SEE SOMETHING PLUMMETING TO EARTH. A NEARBY COOK SAYS IT LOOKS LIKE A BLACK BAG BIG AS A BUCKET.

DRIVING DOWN NEAR THE SWIMMIN' HOLE, TWO RANCHHANDS ARE STARTLED WHEN AN OBJECT STRIKES THE POOL SPLASHING WATER AND MOSS UP ONTO THE TRUCK.

IT'S A RARE 75 MILLION YEAR OLD AUBRITE METEORITE, ONE OF LESS THAN A DOZEN FOUND ON EARTH. THE PEÑA BLANCA SPRINGS METEORITE NOW SITS AT TCU'S MONNIG MUSEUM.

A CHUNK OF HEAVEN FELL INTO A SWIMMING POOL 68 YEARS AGO, THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY.

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Virgil E. Barnes and Oscar E. Monnig, "METEORITES," *Handbook of Texas Online* (<http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/szm01>), accessed July 17, 2014. Uploaded on June 15, 2010. Published by the Texas State Historical Association.

"Pena Blanca Spring" *Meteorite Studies* (http://www.meteoritestudies.com/protected_PENA.HTM), accessed July 17, 2014.

John T. Lonsdale, "The Peña Blanca Spring Meteorite, Brewster County, Texas" *University of Texas, Austin* (http://www.minsocam.org/ammin/AM32/AM32_354.pdf), accessed July 17, 2014.

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